



US Army Corps
of Engineers
Alaska District

Public Notice of Application for Permit

Regulatory Branch (1145b)
Post Office Box 6898
Elmendorf AFB, Alaska 99506-6898

PUBLIC NOTICE DATE: February 4, 2003

EXPIRATION DATE: March 6, 2003

REFERENCE NUMBER: M-1998-1175

WATERWAY NUMBER: Chicken Creek 2

Interested parties are hereby notified that an application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for certain work in waters of the United States as described below and shown on the attached plan.

APPLICANT: Mr. George Seuffert 8191 East Del Joya, Scottsdale, Arizona 85258 (winter address).

LOCATION: The project is located at Mile 66 Taylor Highway, T. 27 N., R. 18 E. Sections 29, 31, 32, and T. 26 N., R. 18 E., Sections 5, 6, and 8, Copper River Meridian. The latitude is N. 64° 03' and the longitude is W. 141° 56'.

WORK: The applicant proposes to continue their mining operation, and add new acreage to the mining plan. The applicant has proposed a 5-year mine life. The operation would continue to be a mechanized open cut and fill mining operation. The operation in its entirety would disturb approximately 66 acres. This operation includes an operating and reclamation plan. The plan involves the movement and placement of overburden, and the opening of a mining area, and the use of a portable wash plant. The stripping and reclamation is done with a dozer. The mining is done with a mobile system using a backhoe. No stream bypasses are planned. The proposal is to mine Mosquito Fork for the five years and complete testing and reclamation on Chicken Creek. The operation will complete 100% recycle with a pre-pond. The proposal is to have no more than 30 acres open at any one time. Reclamation would include removing all equipment, backfilling the cuts as mining proceeds, recontouring the processed material and covering with the stockpiled overburden. Material volumes are shown on sheet 3B.

PURPOSE: The project purpose is to continue production of placer gold from an existing operational mine.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: This plan is proposed as a modification to Corps permit 4-1998-1175, Chicken Creek 2. Existing on site facilities would be utilized for this operation. The Corps jurisdiction is limited to those areas of fill in wetlands and the mechanized land clearing in wetlands. Certain work in mine tailings on Chicken Creek is not jurisdictional for the Corps.

MITIGATION: As a result of mine planning, the applicant proposes to mine the site with a mobile system that allows concurrent reclamation to reduce the open surface footprint, while reducing impacts to the aquatic environment.

WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION: A permit for the described work will not be issued until a certification or waiver of certification as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (Public Law 95-217), has been received from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation.

PUBLIC HEARING: Any person may request, in writing, within the comment period specified in this notice, that a public hearing be held to consider this application. Requests for public hearings shall state, with particularity, reasons for holding a public hearing.

CULTURAL RESOURCES: The latest published version of the Alaska Heritage Resources Survey (AHRS) has been consulted for the presence or absence of historic properties, including those listed in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. There are four properties in the vicinity of the worksite. These have been designated: Site EAG 0005, Chicken Creek Cemetery; EAG 0005 Lost Chicken Hill Site; EAG 0002 Lost Chicken Hill Mine; EAG 0006 Lost Chicken Creek Dredge. The applicant has indicated that he will not be affecting tearing down or moving buildings. Known historic sites would be avoided. In addition coordination will be made if historical/archeological sites are encountered during the mining. Because the properties are outside of the project area, no further action is required. Consultation of the AHRS constitutes the extent of cultural resource investigations by the District Engineer at this time, and he is otherwise unaware of the presence of such resources. This application is being coordinated with SHPO. Any comments SHPO may have concerning presently unknown archeological or historic data that may be lost or destroyed by work under the requested permit will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ENDANGERED SPECIES: No threatened or endangered species are known to use the project area. Preliminarily, the described activity will not affect threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat designated as endangered or threatened, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (87 Stat. 844). This application is being coordinated with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service. Any comments they may have concerning endangered or threatened wildlife or plants or their critical habitat will be considered in our final assessment of the described work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: The proposed work is being evaluated for possible effects to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) pursuant to the Magnuson Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act of 1996, 16 U.S.C. et seq and associated federal regulations found at 50 CFR 600 Subpart K. The Alaska District includes areas of EFH as Fishery Management Plans. We have reviewed the January 20, 1999, North Pacific Fishery Management Council's Environmental Assessment to locate EFH area as identified by the National Marine Fisheries Service.

We have determined that the described activity within the proposed area will not adversely affect EFH, including anadromous fish and federally managed fishery resources.

SPECIAL AREA DESIGNATION: None

EVALUATION: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity and its intended use on the public interest. Evaluation of the probable impacts, which the proposed activity may have on the public interest, requires a careful weighing of all those factors, which become relevant in each particular case. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be

balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. The decision whether to authorize a proposal, and if so, the conditions under which it will be allowed to occur, are therefore determined by the outcome of the general balancing process. That decision should reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, must be considered including the cumulative effects thereof. Among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, cultural values, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership, and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people. For activities involving Section 404 discharges, a permit will be denied if the discharge that would be authorized by such permit would not comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's Section 404(b)(1) guidelines. Subject to the preceding sentence and any other applicable guidelines or criteria (see Sections 320.2 and 320.3), a permit will be granted unless the District Engineer determines that it would be contrary to the public interest.

The Corps of Engineers is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, State, and local agencies and officials; Indian Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps of Engineers to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

Comments on the described work, with the reference number, should reach this office no later than the expiration date of this Public Notice to become part of the record and be considered in the decision. Please contact Mr. Victor O. Ross at (907) 753-2716 or toll free in Alaska at (800) 478-2712, if further information is desired concerning this notice.

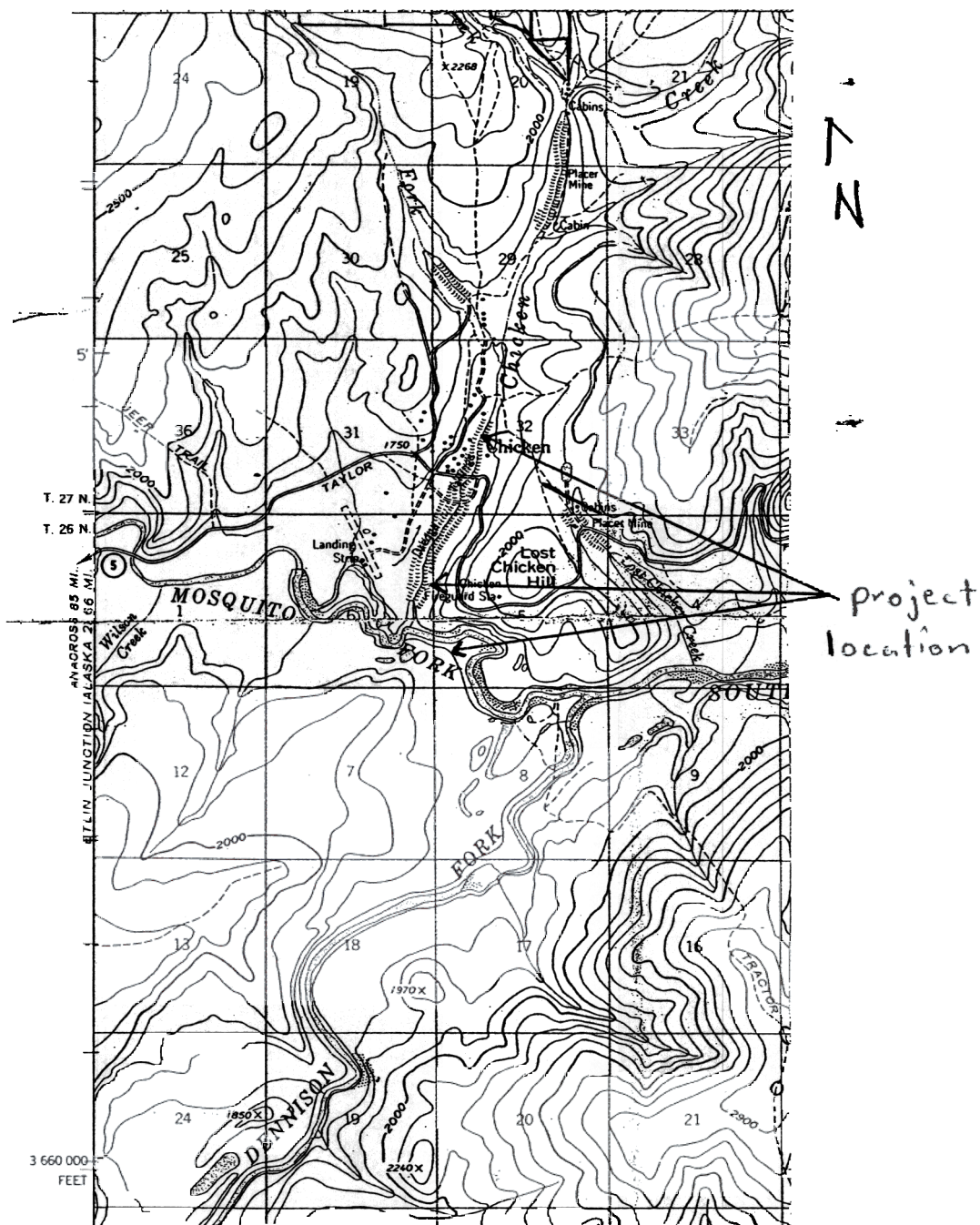
AUTHORITY: This permit will be issued or denied under the following authorities

(X) Discharge dredged or fill material into waters of the United States - Section 404 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1344). Therefore, our public interest review will consider the guidelines set forth under Section 404(b) of the Clean Water Act (40 CFR 230).

A plan and Notice of Application for State Water Quality Certification are attached to this Public Notice.

District Engineer
U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers

Attachments



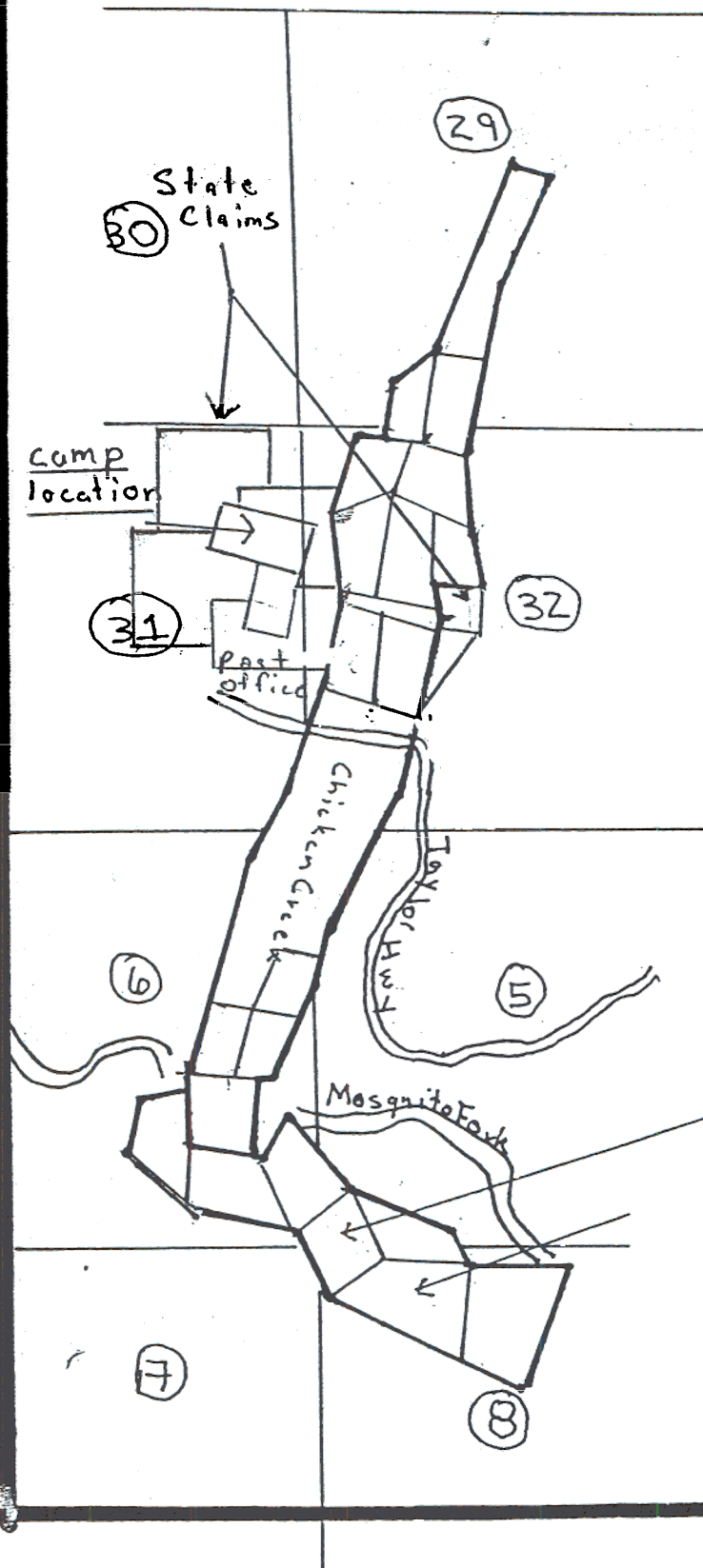
Location

Eagle A-2 CRM
T27N R18E Section 31, 32
T26N R18E Section 5, 6, 8

TITLE BLOCK	
NAME:	Chicken Creek 2
WATER:	M-1998-1175
LOCAL:	Sheet 1 of 17

Sheet 1 of 17 Date 11/21/02

N



patented ground

T27N R18E CRM
T26N R18E CRM
Eagle A-Z

Jeff M.S. 2144

No. 9 South Fork M.S. 2144

Chicken Creek 2
M-1998-1175
Sheet 2 of 17

Location 40 mile distance
Waterway Chicken Creek

Sheet 2 of 17 Date 11/24/02

Project Description

Proposed activities are mining side pay on Chicken Creek which has been extensively dredged and cat mined by previous operators and mining a large flat below chicken creek on Mosquito Fork

All mining is done with a mobile system using a backhoe. The stripping and reclamation is done using a cat dozer

No stream bypasses are planned with Chicken creek stabilized in the dredge tailings and Mosquito Fork in its natural channel

All drawings are generalized showing approximate locations and drawings

We request a 5 year permit and will most likely be working on Mosquito for the length of the permit with only reclamation and exploration on Chicken Creek

100% recycle w/prep

Reclamation ongoing
w/ generally 20-30 acres bonded

Chicken Creek 2
M-1998-1175
Sheet 3A of 17

Summit
Chicken Cr and Mosquito Cr
Sheet 3A of 17 Date 11/24/02

Project Description

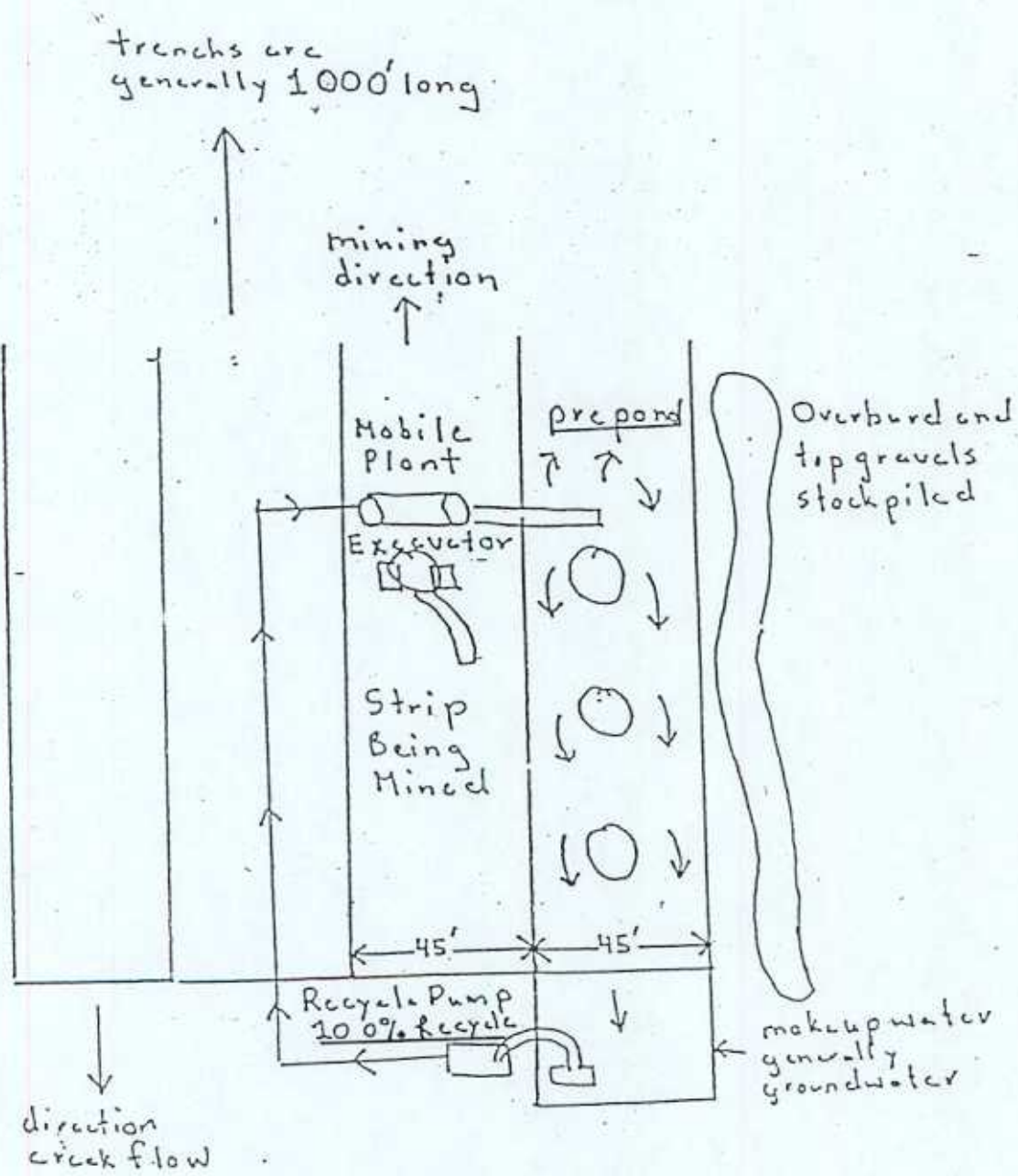
(Chicken Creek)	mined sqft	stripping area sqft
Right Limit Bottom	15,000	40,000
Right Bench	105,000	105,000
Left Limit Bench	40,000	
Left Limit Bottom	30,000	80,000
Cut (10)	<u>105,000</u>	<u>105,000</u>
	295,000 sqft	330,000 sqft
	Total 625,000 sqft \approx <u><u>14.2 acres</u></u>	

(Chicken Creek)	gravels yd ³	muck yd ³
Right Limit Bottom	3300 yd ³	13,800
Right Bench	9,400 yd ³	23,300
Left Limit Bench		2960
Left Limit	16,700	28,000
Cut (10)	<u>31,</u>	<u>11,666</u>
	<u><u>70,511 yd³</u></u>	<u><u>68,060 yd³</u></u>

Mosquito Fork)	2,275,000 sqft \approx 5.7 acres
gravels	muck
<u><u>674,074 yd³</u></u>	<u><u>168,519 yd³</u></u>

Pr: Chicken Creek 2
M-1998-1175
Sheet 3B of 17

George - engineer
40 mile
Chicken Creek Mosquito Cr
sheet 3B of 17 Date 12/8/02

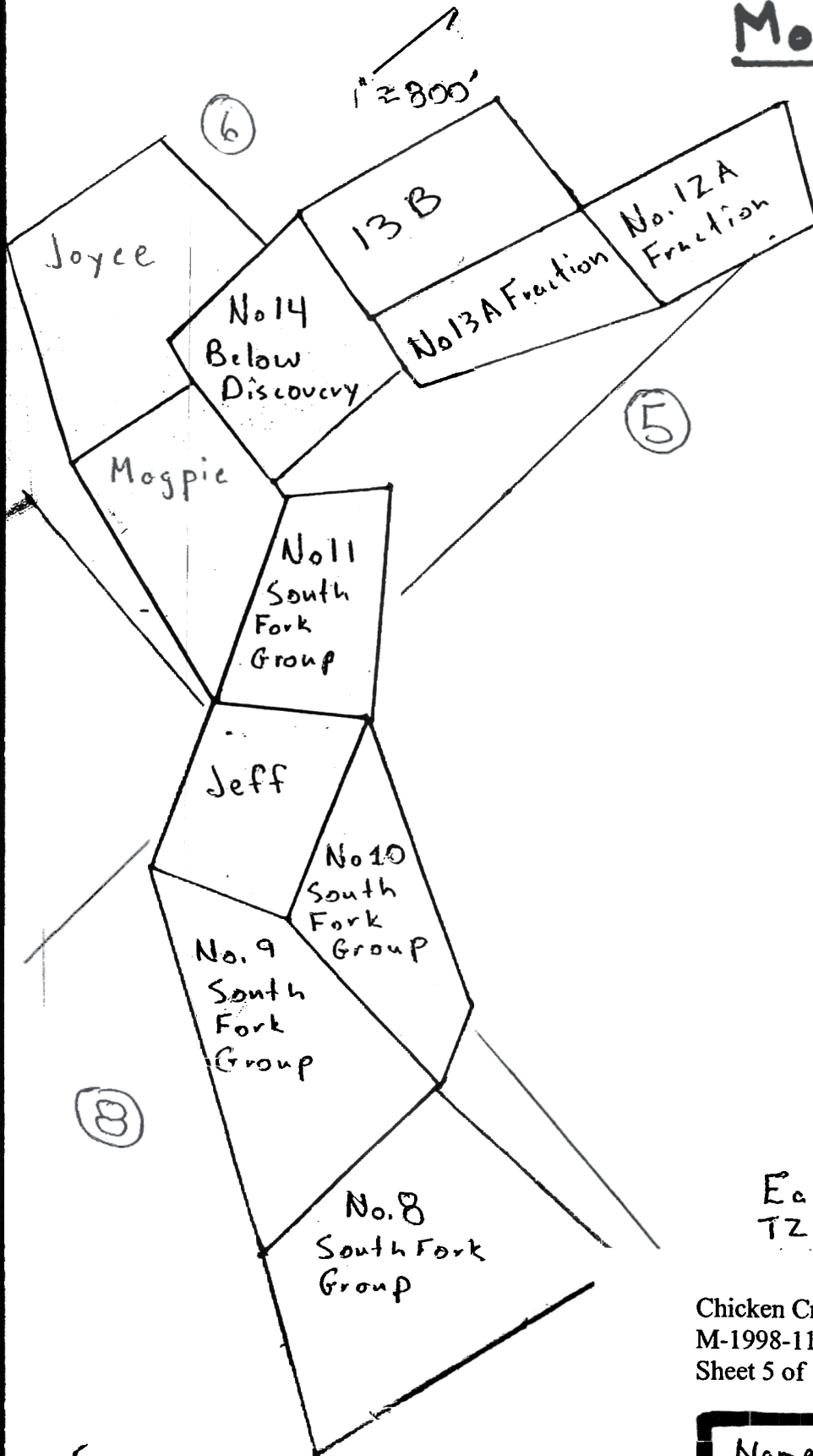


Mobile
Mining Method

Chicken Creek 2
M-1998-1175
Sheet 4 of 17

Name George Seuffert
Location 40 mile district
Waterway Chicken Creek
Sheet 4 of 17 Date 11/29/02

Mosquito



Eagle A-Z
TZCN R18E Section 5, 6, 8
patented

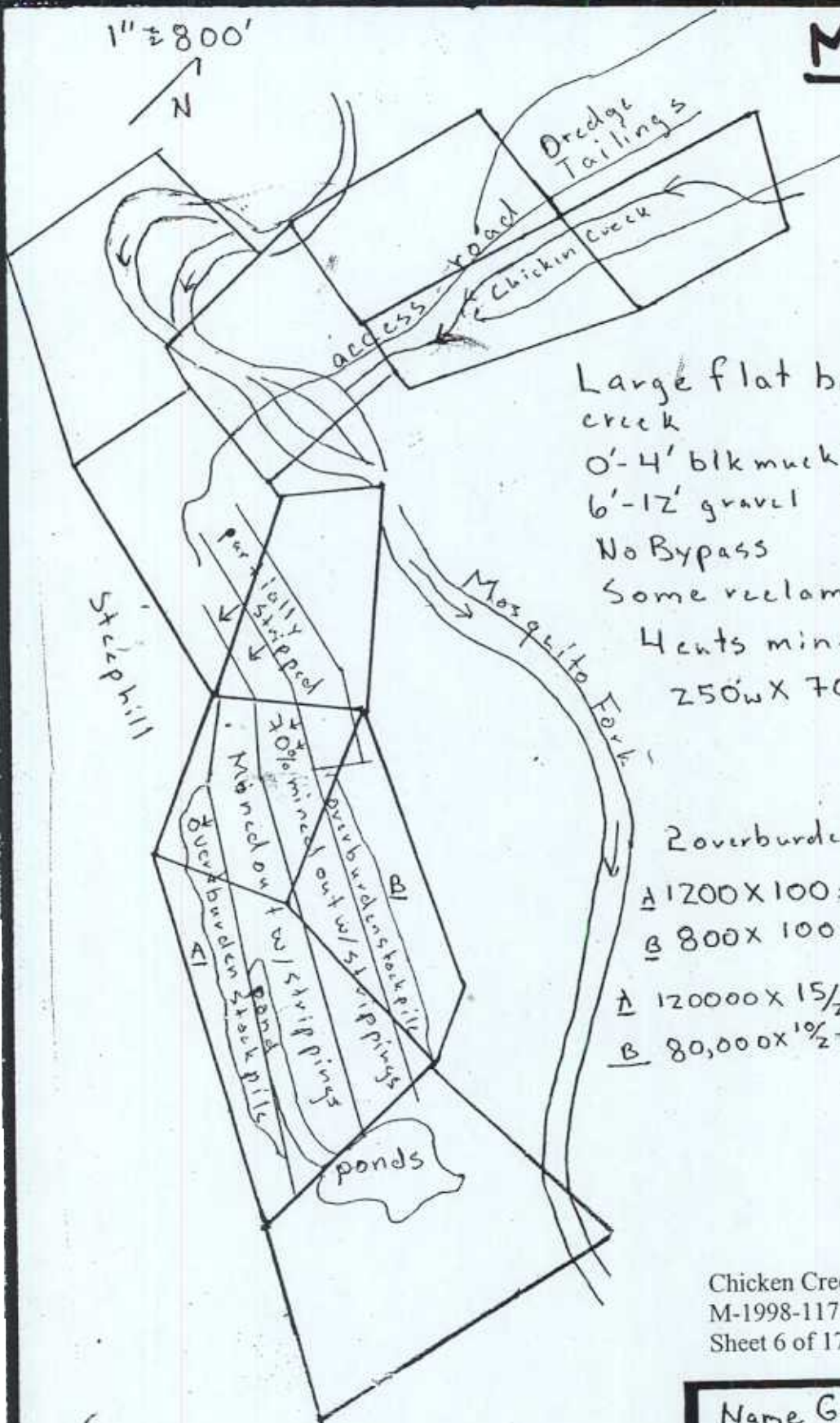
Chicken Creek 2
M-1998-1175
Sheet 5 of 17

Name George Seuffert
Location 40 mile district
waterway Chicken Creek
Sheet 5 of 17 Date 11/29/02

1" = 800'

N

Mosquito



Large flat below chicken creek

0'-4' blk muck av. 2'

6'-12' gravel av. 8'

No Bypass

Some reclamation

4 cuts mined (1 partial)

250'w X 700' = 175,000 sqft

x 4

700,000 sqft

2 overburden stockpiles

A 1200 X 100 = 120,000 sqft

B 800 X 100 = 80,000 sqft

A $120000 \times \frac{15}{27} = 66,666 \text{ yd}^3$

B $80,000 \times \frac{10}{27} = 29,600 \text{ yd}^3$

Chicken Creek 2

M-1998-1175

Sheet 6 of 17

Name George Seuffert
Location 40 mile district
Waterway Chicken Creek

Sheet 6 of 17 Date 11/29/07

Mosquito

N
1" = 800'

Dredge
Tailings

① ⑨ cuts proposed on
Mosquito Fork

All cuts have
same sequence

$$250'_{w} \times 700'_{L} = 175,000_{sqft}$$

$$175,000 \times 9 = 1,575,000_{sqft}$$

Strippings generally on virgin
ground and mined ground on
both sides of cut

$$700'_{L} \times 100'_{w} \times 2_{(both\ sides)} = 140,000_{sqft}$$

$$140,000_{sqft} \times 8'_{D} / 27 = 41,500_{yd^3}$$

Recycle Pond will be last
ditch on previous cut

⑩ chicken creek
see next page

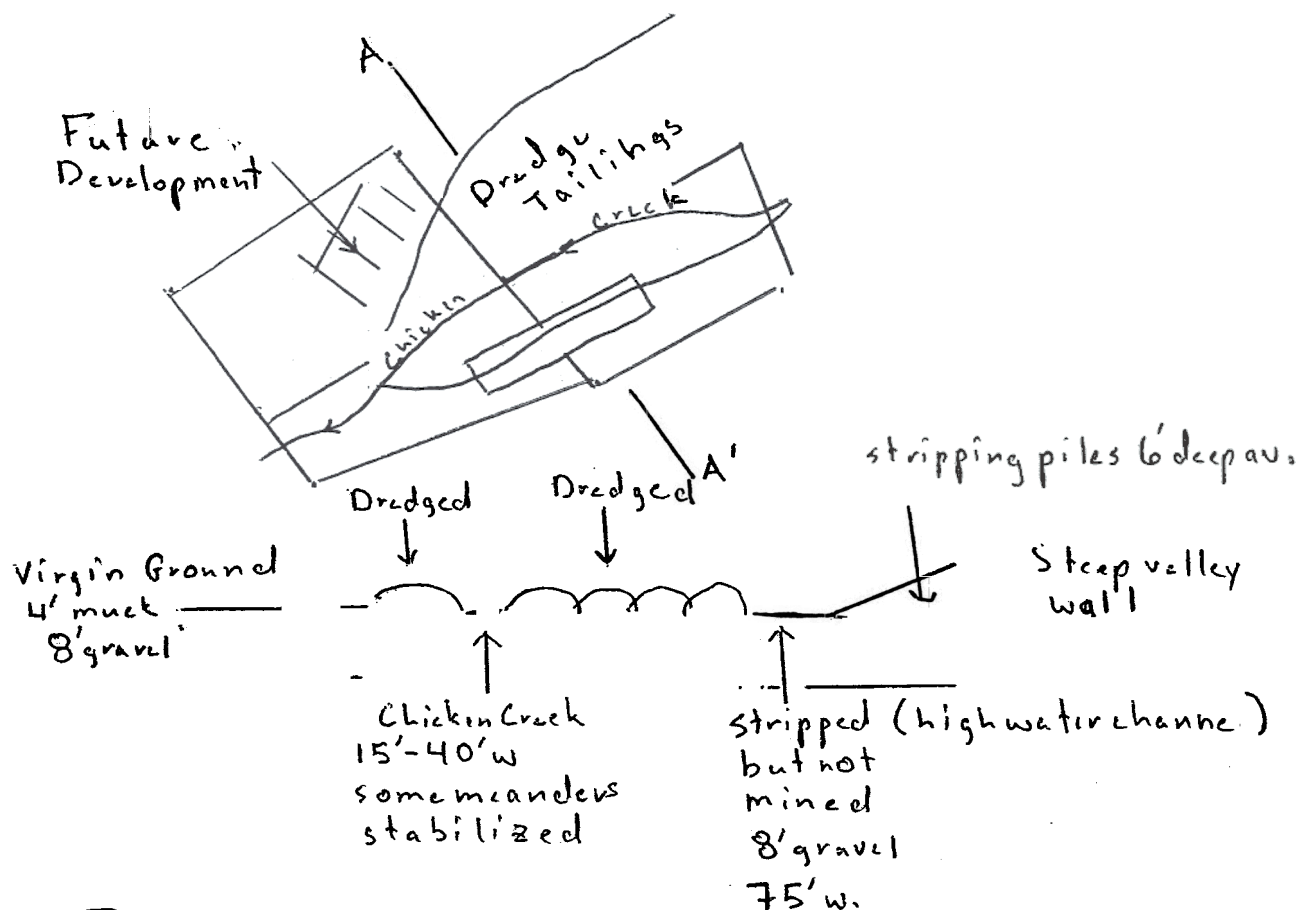
note. 30' buffer zone
as required in previous permits

Chicken Creek 2
M-1998-1175
Sheet 7 of 17

Name George Seuffert
Location 40 mile district
Waterway Chicken Creek
Sheet 7 of 17 Date 11/29/02

10 Chicken Creek

Mosquito



- 10 proposed cut on left limit on stripped ground for dredge and stripping pile
- 700' x 150' cut = 105,000 sqft (6' gravel)
- 700' x 75' stripping onto dredged ground
- 700' x 75' stripped onto steep valley wall
- cut will be kept so that in event of high water can act as channel
- After mining oversize piles will be leveled to create channel that will used when area indicated for future development is mined > 5 years

Mosquito

1" = 800'
N

Reclamation

Tailings Levelled & Contoured

Organic Muck Respread

Stripping piles levelled
and contoured as practical

Will leave ponds if allowed
by DNR staff

possible
pond
50' x 600'

Reclamation

Chicken Creek 2

M-1998-1175

Sheet 9 of 17

Waterway Channel -

Sheet 9 of 17 Date 11/29/02

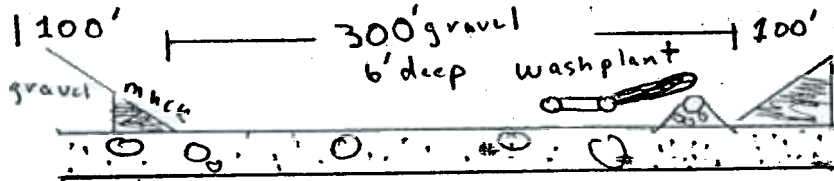
Mosquito

2.0' blk muck
8.0' sandy gravel

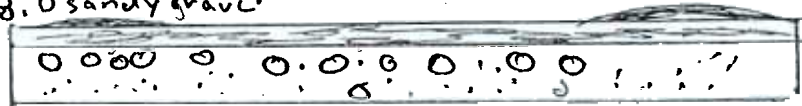


Stockpiled
muck and gravel (segregated)

stockpiled
muck
75'



1.5 blk muck | gravel leveled
8.0' sandy gravel | muck respread



Typical Cross Section

Chicken Creek 2

M-1998-1175

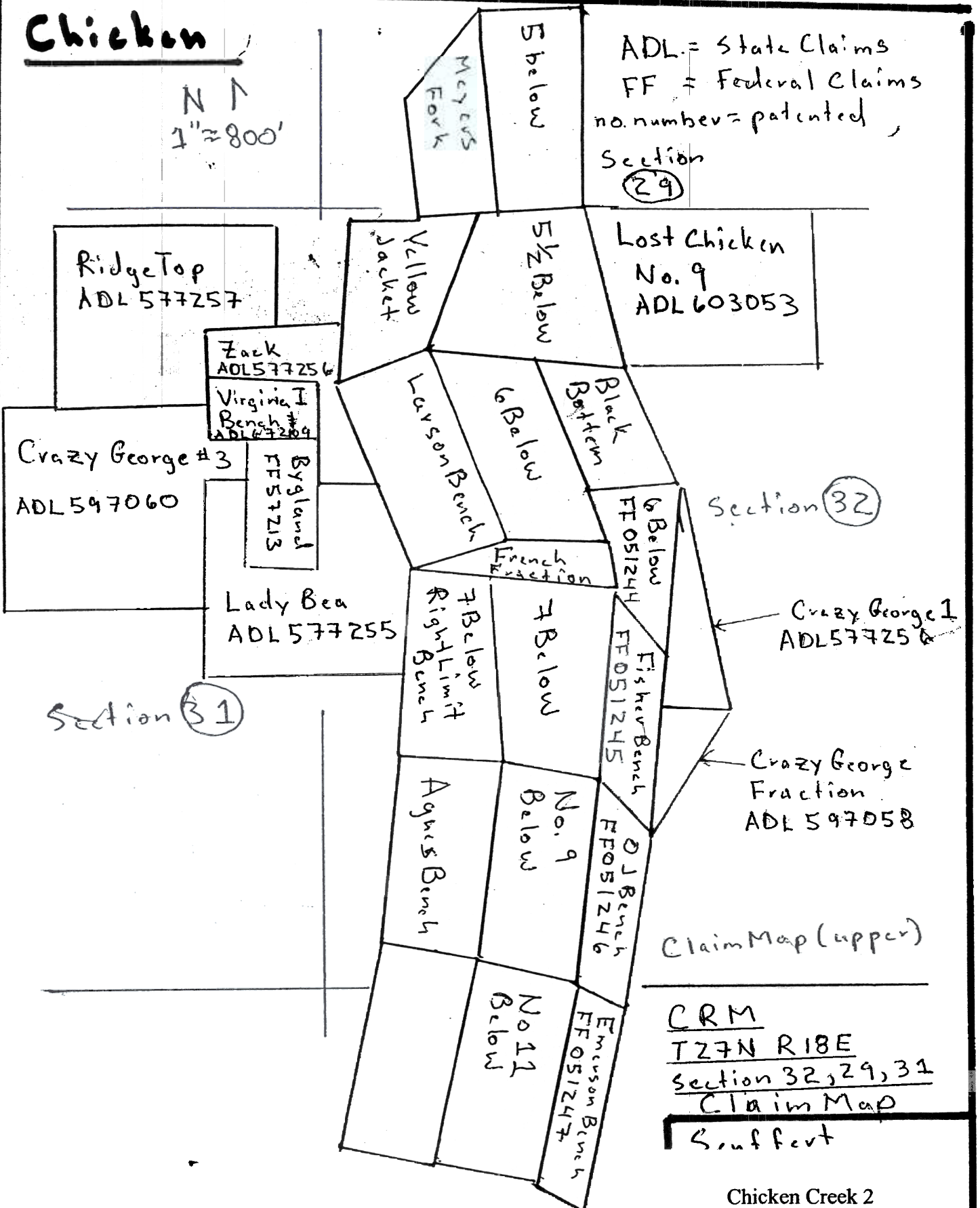
Sheet 10 of 17

Sheet 10 of 17 Date 11/29/02

Chicken

N ↑
1" = 800'

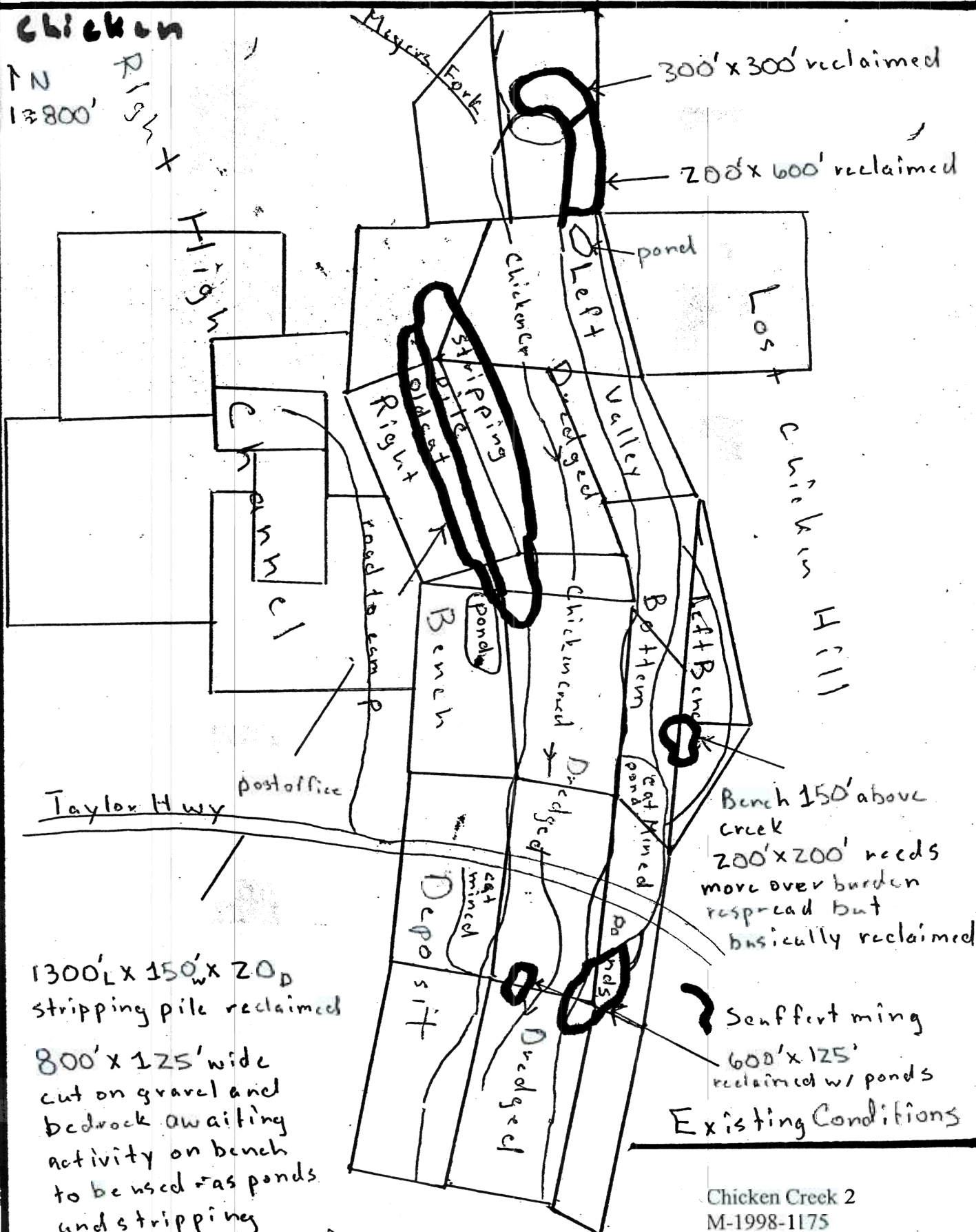
ADL = State Claims
FF = Federal Claims
no. number = patented,
Section (29)



Chicken

TN
13800'

High



1300' L x 150' W x 20' D
striping pile reclaimed

800' x 125' wide
cut on gravel and
bedrock awaiting
activity on bench
to be used as ponds
and striping
(not completely mined)

Sawfert mining
600' x 125'
reclaimed w/ ponds
Existing Conditions

Chicken Creek 2
M-1998-1175
Sheet 12 of 17

12 07 17

↑N 1"=800'

Right Bench

Bench 100' above
creek

150'w x 700'L

6' muck

5' gravel

Chicken

See next page for
volumes & details

Right Bottom

75'w x 200'L

25' muck

6' gravel

Left Limit Bench

200' x 200'

mined but needs
reclamation

Left Limit Bottom

300'L x 75'w

25' muck

15' gravel

Taylor Hwy

Ponds
Ponds

Mining is on going in this
area but basically on hold
till activity across river
is completed except for
reclamation and exploration

Proposed Activity

Title Block

Chicken Creek 2

M-1998-1175

Sheet 13 of 17

rt
ict
k

1/29/02

Right Bench 100' above creek

$$150'w \times 700'L \times 6' \text{ muck} = 23,300 \text{ yd}^3 \text{ stripped}$$

$$150'w \times 700'L \times 5' \text{ gravel} = 19,400 \text{ yd}^3 \text{ mined}$$

gravel level

stripped muck contoured Z' muck respread in
mined area

Right Limit Bottom

$75'w \times 200'L \times 25'd = 3,800 \text{ yd}^3 \text{ stripped}$
into a $100' \times 400'$ area of dredge tailings
and previously cat mined

$$75'w \times 200'L \times 6'd = 3300 \text{ yd}^3 \text{ mined}$$

gravel level Z' muck respread area contoured

Left Limit Bench

$$200' \times 200' = 40,000 \text{ sq. ft}$$

needs final reclamation w/ Z' muck respread

Left Limit Bottom

$300'L \times 100'w \times 25'd = 28,000 \text{ yd}^3 \text{ muck}$
into 2 ponds $100' \times 200'$ above and below

$$300'L \times 100'w \times 15'd = 16,700 \text{ yd}^3 \text{ gravel}$$

will leave as pond area stripping will

be contoured and muck respread over any tailings

1N 1"=800'

Chicken

tailings leveled
2' muck respread
strippings contoured

All tailings leveled contoured
muck respread

Overburden contoured

Ponds left if completely
out of active flood plane

tailings leveled
muck respread
ponds left

contoured
1.5' muck respread

strippings contoured
tailings leveled w/
2' muck respread
pond

Reclamation

Title Block

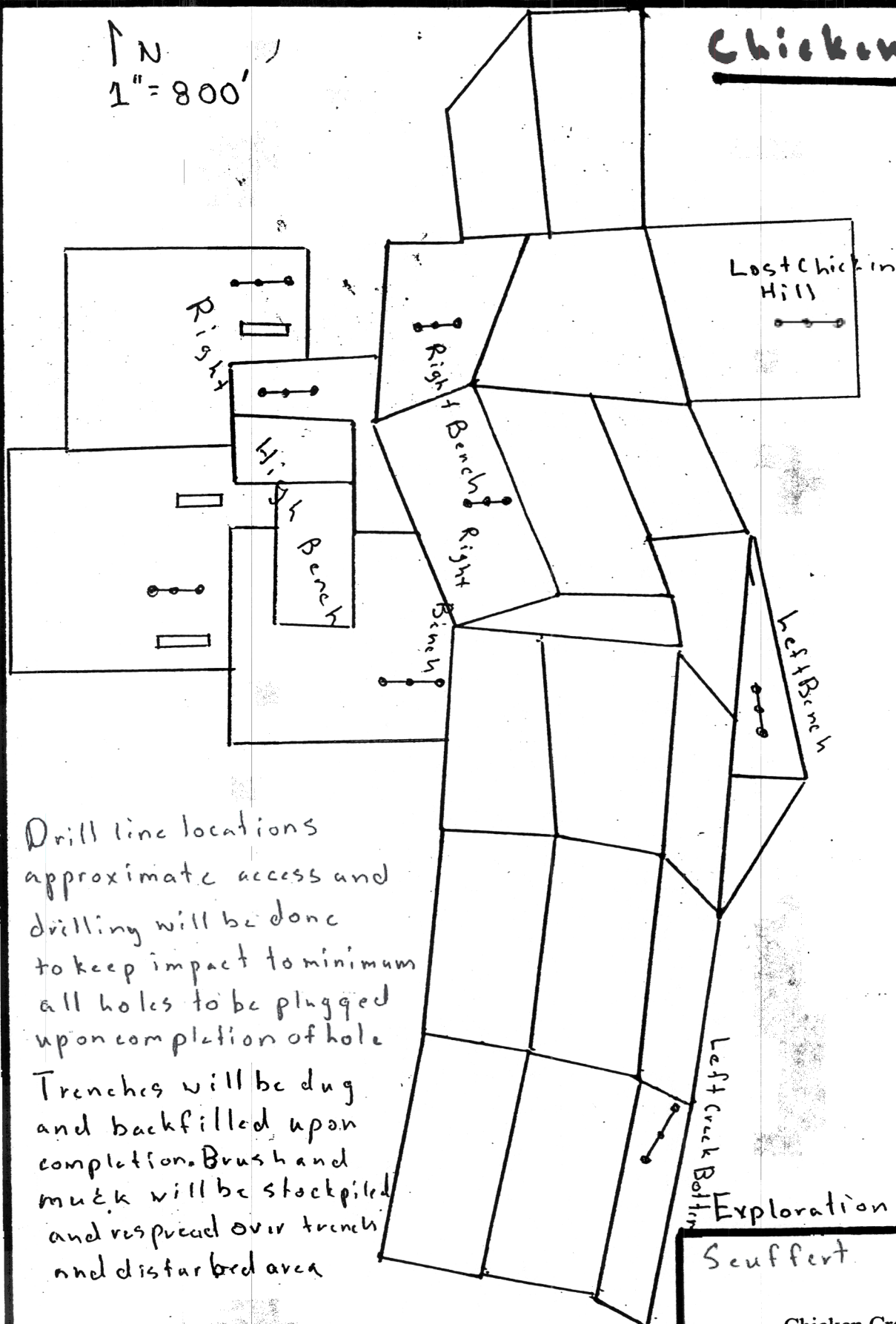
Chicken Creek 2
M-1998-1175
Sheet 15 of 17

rt
ict
k

1/29/02

↑ N
1" = 800'

Chicken



Drill line locations
approximate access and
drilling will be done
to keep impact to minimum
all holes to be plugged
upon completion of hole

Trenches will be dug
and backfilled upon
completion. Brush and
muck will be stockpiled
and respread over trench
and disturbed area

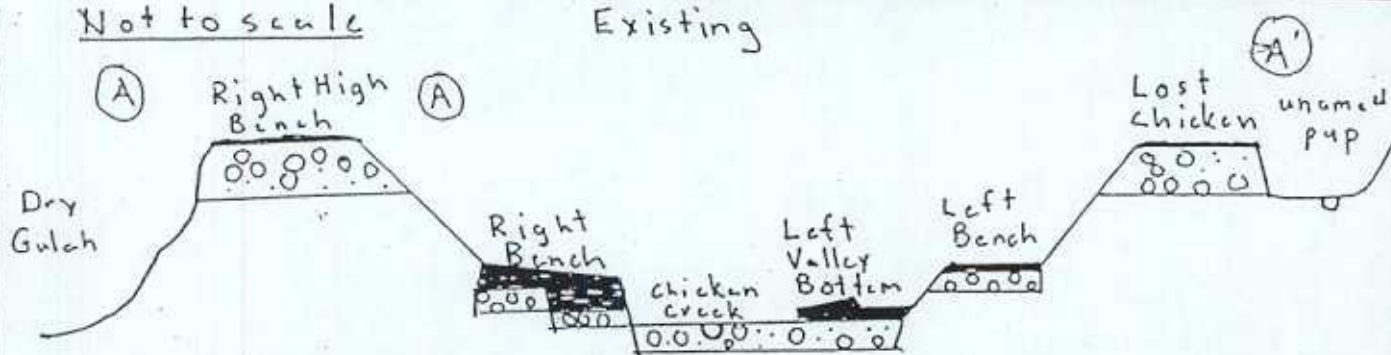
Exploration

Scuffert

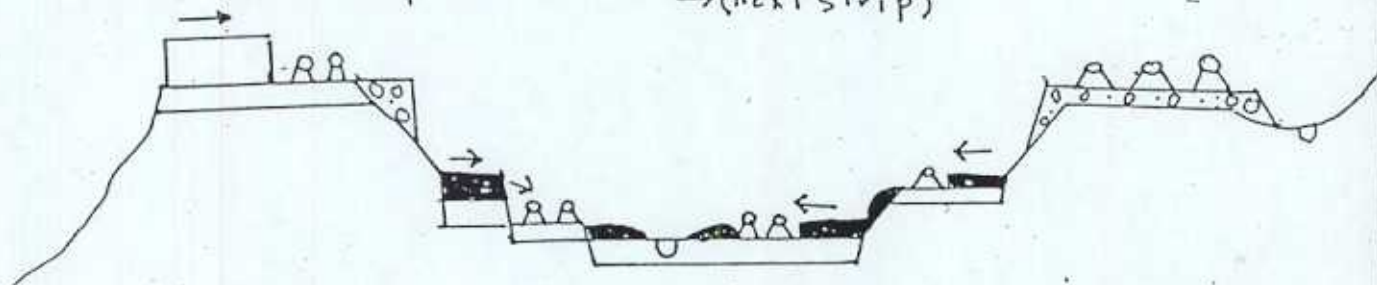
Chicken Creek 2
M-1998-1175
Sheet 16 of 17

Not to scale

Existing



On high Benches
Brush Muck stockpiled Mining A (mobile piles)
→ (next strip)



stockpiled Brush
Muck Respread

Reclamation
All tailings leveled
stripping piles contoured
Muck respread



Chicken

Chicken Creek

Typical Cross Section

Chicken Creek 2
M-1998-1175
Sheet 17 of 17

rt
ict
:k
11/29/02